

3/15/17

3110 M Street, N. W.  
Georgetown, D. C.

HABS No. DC-33

HABS

D.C.

Geo

46-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Columbia  
*Reduced Copies of Historical Drawings*

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

3117 M STREET, N. W.  
Georgetown, District of Columbia

Owner: (formerly) J. Clayton Tribby

Date of erection: c. 1800

Condition: Demolished

Description:

In common with several other houses on M Street, once a fashionable street instead of a traffic artery, 3117 was four bays wide. This allowed either two narrow rooms in width or one very long one. When the house was surveyed, the first floor had been altered to commercial purposes, but the facade above was preserved and, to some extent, the interior.

In elevation the doorway was at the left (west) of the four bays, but all evidence as to its form and that of the windows of this floor was lost in the alterations. Above are four equally spaced windows spanned by rusticated stone flat arches with scrolled keystones. The sash was modern, with large lights, but originally it was probably nine-over-nine on the second floor and six-over-nine on the third. On the roof were two dormers with arched sash and roofs. The jambs were ornamented with paneled pilasters, in the panel of which was a composition decoration of a drop of diminishing husks pendant from a chain of large lozenge-shaped links. The trim of the arch was gone. The brickwork of the facade was particularly well laid and was of Flemish bond.

In plan the entrance hall was at the left, with the stair at the rear. At the second floor the stair hall was confined to the rear of the house so that the front room could assume the full width of the building. This allowed a room 22 feet 4-3/4 inches wide and 24 feet 5-3/4 inches deep. Across the front were the four south windows and on the east wall the chimney breast. The rear room was 13 feet 4 inches by 16 feet 1/2 inch and had two north windows. This plan continued on the third floor, but in the attic there were two rooms in width in the front and a larger one in the rear. The large lower room had recently been subdivided, each into four small rooms.

The interior once must have contained unusually fine trim, but when surveyed it had all disappeared except the stair and the window trims of the south second-floor room.

The stair had posts turned like Doric colonnettes, delicate

rectangular balusters, and scrolled brackets at the step ends. At the landings the thickness of the floors was treated with trim showing a series of circles in the style of a guilloche, but without the interweaving characteristic. The handrail was of mahogany delicately moulded, with ramps and easings. The south front room must have had very elaborate and well designed trim, but at the time of the survey all had been removed except the window trims. These are now preserved in a house in Wilmington, Delaware. The openings had deep reveals which were splayed and paneled. At the height of the window stool, there was a moulded chair rail under the window, with two narrow bands of sunk beaded ornament. Across the window splay the chair rail was replaced by a band of vertical reeding of equal width. Above this band there were series of sunk panels alternating square and long. Below was one large sunk panel in which was a raised oval. This recalled the panel under the window, which was similarly treated though with a large horizontal oval rather than a narrow vertical one. The base under the window panel was similar to the main base of the room, triple-moulded in the style of the Attic base. Across the jambs this was again omitted, reeding taking its place. The face of the opening was framed by an architrave with richly moulded backband. The intermediate moulding was omitted for a narrow band of cross reeding. Against this architrave were slender paneled demi-pilasters in the Ionic style, with long pendants of diminishing husks. These were exceptionally crisp and well modeled. They hung from a ribbon below a pineapple finial. In the frieze were slender vases over the pilasters and one in the center, between which were delicate garlands of husks hung from bowknots.

Author: *Thomas T. Waterhouse*

Date: *May 13, 1941*